

Can I request that the court limit public access to the case record?

Yes, if the case was denied or dismissed and all four (4) of these statements apply to you:

- ☐ 1. The respondent has not been found guilty of a crime.
 - Described in Courts & Judicial Proceedings §3-1503(a) against the petitioner. [Peace order case]
 - Arising from abuse against the petitioner. [Protective order case]
- ☐ 2. No pending interim or temporary peace or protective order against the respondent in a proceeding between the same parties.
- ☐ 3. No pending criminal charges against the respondent in a proceeding between the same parties.
 - Arising from an alleged act described in Court & Judicial Proceedings §3-1503(a). [Peace order case]
 - Arising from abuse against the petitioner. [Protective order case]
- ☐ 4. No other final peace or protective order has been previously issued against the respondent in a case involving the petitioner.

Yes, if the order is expired AND was entered by consent* and all six (6) of these statements apply to you:

* A consent order means that all parties agreed the order should issue.

- ☐ 1. The petitioner consents or agrees to the shielding.
- ☐ 2. The respondent did not violate the order during its term.
- ☐ 3. The respondent has not been found guilty of a crime against the petitioner.
 - Arising from an act described in Courts & Judicial Proceedings §3-1503(a). [Peace order case]
 - Arising from abuse against the petitioner. [Protective order case]
- ☐ 4. No pending interim or temporary peace or protective order against the respondent.
- ☐ 5. No pending criminal charges against respondent.
 - An alleged act described in Courts & Judicial Proceedings §3-1503(a). [Peace order case]
 - Abuse against an individual. [Protective order case]
- ☐ 6. No other final peace or protective order has been previously issued against the respondent in a case involving this petitioner.

Can I keep the public from seeing information about me in a peace or protective order case?

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Just as courtrooms are open to the public, the public has a right to find out information about court cases. However, in some situations, you can request that the public not see information about a peace or protective order case that involves you.

Peace and protective orders are civil orders that a judge issues to order one person not to act in certain ways toward someone else.

When can I ask that the court limit public access to the case record?

When three (3) years have passed from the time the court denied or dismissed the peace or protective order

or

Sooner than three (3) years if you also file a General Waiver and Release (form CC-DC 77). Consider speaking to a lawyer before waiving any legal rights you may have.

If you consented to entry of the order, you must wait until the order has expired.

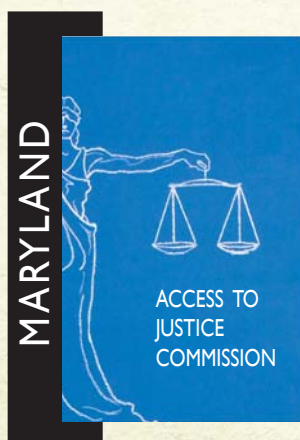
How do I ask the court to limit public access to the case record?

Follow these steps:

1. **Complete the correct form.** Attach the General Waiver and Release (form CC-DC 77) if necessary.
 - For a **peace order** case — use form CC-DC PO-16 to ask the court to limit public access to a record.
 - For a **protective order** case — use form CC-DC DV-21 to ask the court to limit public access to a record.
2. **File the form** (and the waiver/release, if necessary) by mail or in person with the District or Circuit Court that heard your protective or peace order case.
3. **Send a copy** of everything you filed with the court to any other parties involved in the case. If the petitioner's address is confidential, file a "Motion for Appropriate Relief" asking the court to send your request to the petitioner.
4. The court will hold a **hearing** and will consider any objection the petitioner may have.
5. If the court decides you are eligible based on the requirements listed in the first section of this brochure, the court will grant your request.

If the order was not entered by consent or denied or dismissed, you may file a motion to ask the court to limit public inspection of the court record. If a judge grants your motion, the court may remove the records from public access. See the "Motion" section of the brochure, *Can I Keep the Public from Seeing Information about Me in a Court Case?*

If you were the defendant in a criminal case about this same domestic violence matter, see the brochure *Expungement of Criminal Records*. Through expungement, you may be able to limit further what the public can see about you in court records.



www.mdcourts.gov/mdatjc
410.260.1258

For more information

To find out more, see MD. CODE, COURTS & JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS § 3-1510; MD. CODE, FAMILY LAW § 4-512; and MD. RULE 16-1009.

Court forms are available on the Maryland Judiciary's website at www.mdcourts.gov/courtforms.

Read Maryland's laws at www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib/researchtools/sourcesmdlaw.html.

Visit the People's Law Library of Maryland, an online legal resource, at www.peoples-law.org.

Visit a public law library. Location information and hours are available at www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib.

Visit or call the Clerk's Office of the court that heard your case.